(2025) Proposal to conserve the name *Senecio paucifolius* (*Compositae*) with a conserved type

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(2025) ***Senecio paucifolius*** S.G. Gmel., Reise Russland 1: 171. 1770–1774 [*Dicot.: Compos.*], nom. cons. prop.
Typus: Kazakhstan, Songaria, 1843, Schrenk (LE; isotypi: G No. 162808, LISU No. 53583, WU), typ. cons. prop.

Senecio paucifolius S.G. Gmel. is a species distributed in the Ukraine, European Russia, western Siberia and Kazakhstan (north of Aralo-Caspian and Balkhash Lake region). It is a perennial herbaceous plant characterized by bearing a racemose or narrowly paniculate inflorescence, semiamplexicaul cauline leaves, a stem base covered with brown fibrous remnants of dead leaves, and pubescent achene ribs. It grows in lime meadows, sheep's fescue steppes, and occasionally on solonchaks (salt marshes). *Senecio paucifolius* is closely related to *S. racemosus* (M. Bieb.) DC., distributed in eastern Anatolia, northern Iraq, western Iran, and the Caucasus region. The most diagnostic character to differentiate the taxa is the indumentum of the achenes. *Senecio paucifolius* has unicellular trichomes along the entire achene ribs, while in *S. racemosus* achenes are glabrescent to covered with trichomes in the upper part only.

Senecio paucifolius has consistently been accepted and widely used in the taxonomic literature from its publication between 1770 and 1774, e.g., by Schischkin (in Schischkin & Bobrov, Fl. USSR 26: 733. 1961), Wissjulina (in Bordzilowski, Fl. URSR 11: 375. 1962), Roldugin (in Pavlov, Fl. Kazakh. 9: 152. 1966), Czerepanov (Addit. Corrig. Fl. URSS: 94. 1973), Adylor & Zuckerwanik (in Vvedensky & Kamelinio, Consp. Fl. Asiae Mediae 10: 435. 1993), Konechnaya (in Tzvelev, Fl. Evrop. Chasti SSSR 7: 62. 1994), Greuter (in Greuter & Raab-Straube, Euro+Med Plantbase, http://www.emplantbase.org, accessed June 2011).

Gmelin (1770–1774) in his *Reise durch Russland* briefly described *Senecio paucifolius* as "plant three feet long with smooth, round and straight stem. Alternate leaves, separate from each one among one or two inches, sessile, a bit concave, serrate margin and blunt apex." As he did not cite any diagnostic character, the information provided does not discriminate *S. paucifolius* from other similar species. Moreover, he did not provide any indication of specimens. According to Stafleu & Cowan (in Regnum Veg. 94: 958. 1976), Gmelin material is kept at LE, OXF, and BM. We have studied the LE collection and have not found any potential type material, and the curators of OXF and BM were also unsuccessful in similar searches.

Given that Gmelin included a plate with detailed drawings of the ligulate flower, tubular flower, and stem base (Reise Russland 1: t. 38, fig. 2. 1770–1774), there is original material for this name. However, a careful examination of the plate showed that it does not correspond well to the current concept of this species and do not support the usage of the name. Firstly, the number of ligulate flowers is low (5–6), one character used by Chater & Walters (in Tutin & al., Fl. Eur. 4: 196. 1976) to separate *Senecio* sect. *Doria* from *S.* sect. *Crociseris*, both closely related. The low number of ligulate flowers is characteristic of *S.* sect. *Doria*, because in *S.* sect. *Crociseris* the number ranges from 10 to 22, rather high. Secondly, the base of the caulinar leaves is attenuate, not semiamplexicaul, and the stem base does not seem to bear brown fibrous remnants of dead leaves. Moreover, the leaves do not strongly decrease in size up the stem, another character close to *S.* sect. *Doria*, not sect. *Crociseris*. Therefore, it seems feasible that Gmelin's drawing could correspond to another species, even a member of another section, probably to *S. nemorensis* L. s.l. This being the only element available for lectotypification, it becomes necessary to conserve the name *S. paucifolius* with a conserved type to preserve its current usage.

Gmelin described *Senecio paucifolius* during a trip through the southern European part of USSR, but did not specify the locality or the region, so no priority can be assigned to a particular location in proposing a type for conservation. We prefer to select a specimen that presents all the diagnostic characters and, secondly, that has duplicates deposited in several main herbaria. Among the available material, the selected specimen is an 1843 Schrenk collection from Songaria, Kazakhstan. The sheet contains two plants with narrowly paniculate inflorescence, semiamplexicaul cauline leaves, stem base covered with brown fibrous remnants of dead leaves, and achenes pubescent along ribs. The proposed type is kept at LE!, and we have located the following duplicates: G No. 162808!, LISU No. 53583!, WU!.

If *Senecio paucifolius* were to be rejected under Art. 56 of the ICBN (McNeill & al. in Regnum Veg. 146. 2006), it would be replaced by *S. kirghisicus* DC. (Prodr. 6: 362. 1838), a later heterotypic synonym of *S. paucifolius* used only by Krasnoborov (Fl. Sibiriae 13: 167. 1997), and Chater & Walters (l.c.). Both include the name *S. paucifolius* as a synonym, the former sensu "auct., non S.G. Gmel." and the latter sensu "Schischkin, non S.G. Gmelin". Oddly, Schischkin (l.c.) accepted *S. paucifolius* in a sense corresponding to the current concept of this species; probably a wrong interpretation by Chater & Walters. These authors treat *S. paucifolius* as a synonym of *S. doria* subsp. *kirghisicus* (DC.) Chater.

Alternatively, by conserving the widely used name *Senecio paucifolius* with a conserved type, we can avoid the unnecessary confusions that would have been created by this rejection and remove any uncertainty surrounding the application of this name. Therefore, in order to preserve nomenclatural stability in accordance with ICBN Art. 14.2, we propose to conserve *S. paucifolius* with a conserved type.

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